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THE CONCLUSION OF LETTERS ON THE CULTURE OF SILK,

WITH ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTS OF BOTH KINDS OF BREAD FRUIT TREES AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF NOPAL PLANTS, ON THE COAST OF COROMANDEL:

BY

JAMES ANDERSON,

M. D. AND A. M.

PHYSICIAN GENERAL,

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AND

MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF PLANTERS OF St. HELENA.

MADRAS:

PRINTED BY JOSEPH MARTIN,

M.DCC.XCII.

Jos: Banks

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Richardſon at Ganjam, dated 4th March 1792.

"I HAVE the pleaſure to acquaint you, that we have at laſt a proſpect of ſucceeding in rearing of the Silk worms, as the Eggs which were ſent from Bengal by Mr. Colvin in the month of Auguſt did not begin to hatch, till the beginning of laſt month."

"They continue to give young ones every day, and although the weather is rather unfavorable from frequent rains, they continue to thrive exceedingly."

"The firſt of them began to ſpin a few days ago, I ſhall occaſionally let you know our ſucceſs."

To JAMES ANDERSON Eſq. Phyſician General.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE been favored with your letter of the 6th inſtant, deſiring information concerning the Bread Fruit Tree.

It is not common about this place, but there are a few Trees in a large garden called the Jumbo Tope.

The Fruit is not much valued by the Natives, however they do make Curries of it.

The Tree large and extremely beautiful.

The Leaf reſembles in ſome degree the Fig Leaf.

The Fruit has exactly the appearance of a ſmall Jack.

By the people here it is called Elapala-kay.

It is propagated with much eaſe from the ſeed, and ſome Trees are now thriving at the Paymaſter's Garden at Palamcotta, from ſeeds I ſent Mr. Torin between two and three years ago.

Mr. Torin tranſplanted ſome Trees to the garden he now lives at near Tinnevelly, and as they are doing vaſtly well, I ſhould imagine it may be cultivated in almoſt any ſoil.

The Fruit will be ripe, the end of this month or the beginning of next, and with your permiſſion, I will then forward ſome to you.

Shevellapatore, 13th March 1792. I remain, &c.

C. DIGHTON.

TO DOCTOR ANDERSON Phyſician General.

DEAR SIR,

I WAS favored with your letter of the 19th, and the Packet of Eggs of the Silk worm which accompanied it on the 28th ultimo; I alſo received a ſecond packet of Eggs on the 5th inſtant, and at different times Copies of the continuation of your Correſpondence for the purpoſe of introducing

introducing various improvements on the Coaſt, for all which I beg you to accept my beſt thanks.

On opening both the packets of Eggs, I found many of them hatched, and a conſiderable number of the worms dead for want of food, all that remained alive have been treated in the manner you direct, and I am happy in informing you, they are now in the moſt thriving ſtate; but although I have keept the remaining Eggs looſely wrapped up in wax Cloth, and in a Cudgeree Pot, not one of them has hatched ſince they came to hand.

I ſhall ſend ſome of the firſt Eggs my worms produce to the Gentlemen you mention in the Ganjam diſtrict, though I learn from that Quarter, that Mr. Webb has already a conſiderable number of worms in a more advanced ſtage of their exiſtence than mine.

Chicacole, 8th March 1792. I am, &c.

D. HALIBURTON.

TO DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE ſeen a ſpecimen of the Bread Fruit Tree, the ſame as that at Tritchinopoly, and having a promiſe of ſome young Trees in order to tranſplant, as alſo ſeed; I make no doubt by the information received from the Country people, of bringing it to perfection at this place.

What was brought here came from the Valley of Dindigul, forty eight miles off, and although I have been ſilent I have not been inattentive, for I have now in my garden many thouſand Mulberry cuttings in a moſt thriving condition, which have been taken from my own Mulberry Trees.

What I have done hitherto has been for my own amuſement, and managed by my Gardiner; however ſhould you think that I could give the ſmalleſt aid to your laudable plans, command me without ceremony.

Dindigul, 13th March 1792. And believe me always, your's &c.

T. BOWSER.

TO CAPTAIN CHARLES DIGHTON, Commanding Shevellapatore.

Dear Sir,

I AM very much obliged by the diſtinct and full account of the Bread Fruit Tree at Shevellapatore, and will be glad of ſome of the ſeed as my Trees are yet ſo young, there is Fruit only on one of them.

You will ſee by the publication I have made, of which I have the pleaſure to encloſe you a Copy, that Government have promiſed to write to Sumatra for two different kinds of this Tree, which are known there.

I have in conſequence of Mr. Andrews's letter, taken the liberty to ſend you Nopal Plants in the ſame manner as to our Mulberry Plantations, for which you will be ſo good as to accept of the beſt apology I can make, that I am happy to place them out in ſuch able hands.

Fort St. George, 21ſt March 1792. I am &c.

JAMES ANDERSON.

TO

TO THE HONORABLE SIR CHARLES OAKELEY, Bart.
Acting Governor and Council.

Honorable Sirs,

YOU will pleaſe to acquaint the Hon. The Court of Directors, by the Ship Camden, under diſpatch, that the Silk worm is introduced into the whole extent of the Coaſt, as the Eggs ſent to Ganjam in Auguſt are now hatching.

You may farther acquaint the Hon. Court that the Countries South of the Kiſtna on account of the even temperature of the Atmoſphere, will ſtand ſuperior to Bengal for the culture of Silk, in the Ratio of two to one, and enable them to eſtabliſh a very conſiderable manufacture of that article here, without encroaching on the Countries, where the Cloth inveſtment is carried on.

Fort St. George, 23d March 1792. I am &c.

JAMES ANDERSON.

TO DOCTOR BERRY AT MADRAS.

Dear Sir,

EXCUSE me for not having replied to your Letter of the 27th of Jan. before now, which requeſts information of the Bread Fruit Tree, my public avocations have prevented me from paying that attention to this object which I wiſhed to do.

The Bread Fruit Tree appears to thrive very well both at Cochin and Ayacotta; at the former palce there are ſeveral of them; but paid little attention to either by the Dutch or the Natives; indeed there is a ridiculous prejudice prevails amongſt the former, that the Fruit is unwholeſome, and that the Tree planted near a houſe gives diſeaſes to the inhabitants of it.

It is called the Maldive Jack, both at this place and Ceylon, where I underſtand there are a great number of the Trees.

From every information I have been able to obtain, I conceive it is indigenous to the Maldives from whence it was brought to Ceylon about 13 or 14 Years ago, and from that place to this.

I was told by a Dutch Gentleman, that the Bread Fruit is very common at Batavia, and has been for many years paſt uſed as Food by the Malays. —I eat of it myſelf ſome time ago and thought it reſembled a yam; but of a very ſuperior flavor.

There are no Kernals or Seeds in it; & it muſt be multiplied in the manner deſcribed by Doctor Anderſon, in his Letter to Doctor Mein of the 29th of Jan. 1792.—Such is exactly the manner practiſed here; but it is not planted in the red volcanic Earth mentioned by Doctor Anderſon, but in common Black Mould, and this cannot be done for want of the former, as the ſoil here abounds with it. I have for Doctor Anderſon, two very fine plants of it, one three feet high, a leaf of which I have now cut off and ſend in this Letter.—I have likewiſe ſeveral cuttings from the Root: they are all in boxes, and ready to be ſent by the firſt opportunity: I have encruſted with wax, two of the fruit, which ſhall be ſent at the ſame time.

I have received by three or four of the laſt Tappals, ſome of the Nopals. I take them to be? they are from Doctor Anderſon, but he has given me no inſtructions about them, and I was not ſo fortunate as to meet with his former publications, which made mention of them.—I have however planted them: my Dubaſh knew them, and called them Ella Kalli—the people here ſay that the Travancore Country abounds with it.

Mr. Martin has not yet ſent me the Silk Worm Eggs, and I imagine that his breed muſt have failed.

Cochin March 4th 1792. Yours very faithfully.

GEORGE POWNEY.

TO CAPTAIN T. BOWSER Commanding Dindigul.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE received your obliging favor of the 13th Inſtant, and am very Senſible of the Value of its contents; as before this reaches you, your garden will be ſtocked with Nopal Plants, which on the permiſſion you have granted, I muſt requeſt you will take the trouble to diſtribute ſlips from, to every Village in your Neighbourhood, abundance of which they will afford in the courſe of three or four months, and independant of their uſe in the expected Cochineal Buſineſs, theſe Plants will prove a nouriſhing and wholeſome vegetable to the Natives of the Country.

By a Letter juſt received from Mr. Powney at Cochin, it appears there are plenty of Bread Fruit Trees there and at Ayacotta, he is ſending me two, which by all accounts are the Sookoon, as yours is the Calawee of Summatra, it is therefore likely we ſhall be able to procure enough of both kinds without croſſing the Seas.

Mr. Powney can ſend you the Sago—and many other valuable Trees which are mentioned in the Hortus Malabaricus, not known to exiſt at preſent on this ſide of the Hills, and in caſe you have any vacant Choultries or ſpare Houſes at Dindigul, I will ſend you ſome of the Silk worm Eggs, as they require good ſhelter againſt the Monſoon, although the worms are ſpinning upon the Trees in my garden at this Seaſon.

I am &c,

Fort St. George March 24th 1792. J. ANDERSON.

To Doctor WILLIAM ROXBURGH SAMULCOTTA.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE been favored with two Letters, as you will ſee by the encloſed Publication, and the Starving Condition of the People in your Neighbourhood is very diſtreſſing, but as a Calamity of this nature admits of no immediate remedy in my power, I can only ſay that the exploration of the Banks of the Gadavery may be worthy the attention of government, to ſee if water courſes might not be carried to fertilize its banks, as the banks of the Cavery have long ſince been fertilized.

I am happy that you have paid ſo much attention to the Kew Nopal, as it is a Plant replete with a rich Mucilage, and affording much wholeſome nouriſhment,

nourishment, I therefore recommend that you distribute these you have to the neighbouring villages with a liberal hand, as I have sent you a Quantity on the Ship Minish, and will take care that as many are put on board of every future Ship as they will carry from hence.

Mr. Dick who I understand returns Commertial Resident to your Quarter, carries a large Quantity of Nopals with him, and no doubt his benevolent and humane disposition, will tend to alleviate the distresses of the Country; if they are planted in the village gardens, they will soon afford a great many leaves that may be eaten.

Major Bonneveaux at Condapilly has I hear afforded assistance to many of the poor by Parmentiers prepared Flower; and no doubt the report of Famine will induce the Merchants to pour in rice from all Quarters, but alas, there is much difference betwixt the benevolent hand of the Major, and any supply in this way.

How easy might it be, to prevent the possibility of such horrid devastation in a Country, where the Crop of a favorable Season is sufficient for the supply of two; and the knowledge of preserving grain under ground, as well understood as in the days of Cornelius Tacitus?

Fort St. George March 24th 1791. I am &c.

JAMES ANDERSON.

To Captain Kyd Grand Army.

Dear Sir,

ON receipt of your Letter of the 6th Instant I delivered one of the Barometers to Mr. Topping, whoes correctness you are well acquainted with.

The other I delivered to Major Maule as you desire, but as some Mercury had escaped, it was judged proper to compare them, and they are at present both with Mr. Topping for that purpose.

As soon as this matter is ajusted, the Barometer will be returned to the Major, who promises to send it up to you with some other Instruments, when Mr. Topping and you will correspond on the Subject.

Enclosed I send the Instructions from Colonel Kyd, for the management, with a drawing of the Instrument, and sincerely wishing you health.

Fort St. George March 25th 1792. I am &c.

JAMES ANDERSON.

To Robert Andrews Esq.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE heard from Captain Dighton that there are a number of Bread Fruit Trees in a garden called the Jumbo Tope there, that the Natives use the Fruit in Curries, and that he sent young Trees that were Seedlings two years ago to Mr. Torin.

He tells me the Fruit will be ripe next month when he will send me seeds, and think you may likewise write to him for some.

I

I have alſo ſeen a Letter from Mr. Powney confirming what I had publiſhed in regard to the mode of multiplying Bread Fruit Trees, whereby it appears that the Tree at Cochin is the Sookoon, as yours is the Calawee of Marſeden.

I have likewiſe a Letter from Mr. Corbett who after viſiting the Filatures in Bengal is bringing a Winder, Turner, Reels &c. &c. with him on the Dutton, but it appears by his account there is no ſtandard for the Reel, and every man uſes a Reel of his own particular conſtruction.

The winders like the Tellers at the Bank can only gain expertneſs and expedition at their work, by practice.

Fort St. George March 25th 1792. I am &c. JAMES ANDERSON.

EXTRACT of a Letter from MR. CORBET dated Calcutta March 5th 1792.

"MR. COLLINSON at Bauleah has ſome of the beſt, which are different from the others, and of which I have an exact Model, but Mr. Fruſhards Reels are the beſt; I have made up two Compleat to bring round with me, I have alſo a very good Spinner, and a Turner that come with me."

TO THE HONORABLE SIR CHARLES OAKELET, Bart. Acting Governor and Council.

Honorable Sirs,

HAVING juſt received a Letter from Mr. Corbett dated the 5th inſtant comprehending a Summary account of his late journey to the Filatures, and much important information on all the Branches of the Silk Manufactory; in juſtice to him as well as regard to the public welfare, I am induced to ſend you the encloſed Copy thereof.

Fort St. George March 26th 1792. I am &c. J. ANDERSON.

TO DOCTOR ANDERSON.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE the pleaſure to acknowlege the receipt of your favor of the 28th Ultimo, and alſo the receipt of two Packets of Eggs, and the Nopals; which laſt I have planted with Captain Flints permiſſion in his garden, where the Mulberry Plantation is.

At the time the firſt paper of Eggs arrived there was ſix or ſeven hundred Inſects hatched, but as they were provided with Mulberry leaves immediately, few or none of them were loſt.

We have now an innumerable quantity of worms in all the different Stages; Captain Flint has erected five ovens for the purpoſe of drying the Silk on the Reel, and that which has been treated in this manner appears more wirey, and greatly ſurpaſſes in gloſs and colour, any that has been obtained from former Crops.

The Silk lately wound off was made very ſtrong for the purpoſe of being Manufactured in this neighbourhood.

The worms from the Eggs you laſt favored us with, are beginning to form their Cacoons, which are white, and not above half the uſual ſize, we hence imagine them to be a kind of worm that is naturally ſmaller.

Tiagar March 17th 1792. I am &c.

GEO. ANDERSON.

TO

TO Mr. GEORGE ANDERSON.

Dear Sir,

THE white Silk worm Eggs I last sent you as you Justly remark, is a Smaller kind, that was introduced here last year by Mr. Chase.

Captain Flint is entitled to much praise in sparing no expence in the prosecution of this business, and the proper drying of the Silk is no doubt of much consequence.

You may expect some of the first Eggs of the large white Cacoons that my worms produce, which are likewise of a much brighter white than the small sort.

I am &c.

Fort St. George March 28th 1792. JAMES ANDERSON.

TO JAMES ANDERSON ESQUIRE.

Dear Sir,

THE Nopals you sent by the Tappall arrived safe—I have been for some time past at Guntoor or I should sooner have spared you the trouble of sending any, by informing you that notwithstanding the great number of Plants I lost in the late uncommonly heavy Monsoon, I have now some Hundreds of the China, Kew, and Isle of France Nopals in high preservation and bearing Fruit.

Mr. Phippards removal to Nellore leaves the Mulberry Plantation without an overseer, I conclude you will be glad of the services of any gentleman willing to undertake the Charge, I have therefore spoken to Mr. Crawfurd of the Civil service assistant to Mr. Erskine, who will with pleasure undertake the Superintendance of the garden, in case you have not already bespoke the Services of other gentlemen—you can write him on the Subject, he will pay every attention to the Plantation.

If you have any Spare Copies of your Correspondence, I should be obliged to you for one to send my Father and Sir John Call, as they are both Members of the Royal Society, it would give them pleasure to peruse it, one Copy will serve them both.

I remain &c.

Ongole March 24th 1792. S. YOUNG.

TO SAMUEL YOUNG ESQUIRE.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE received your Letter of the 24th, and am very happy you have paid attention to the Nopals I formerly gave you, because I see they will soon become an object of great consideration with the Natives as an article of Diet, and am sure you will spare no pains to encourage some of them being transplanted from your Garden into all the neighbouring villages. Satisfied that plantations near you, would never be neglected I gave myself no trouble about the Mulberrys at Ongole, Mr. Crawfurd will therefore accept of my thanks for coming forward, at the time of Mr. Phippards removal to Nellore.

Enclosed, I send you two complete copies of my Publications for last year, and what has elapsed of the present; one of which you will present to Mr. Crawfurd in my name, and send the other to your Father and Sir John Call, who are both public spirited men.

I am, &c.

Fort St. George, 30th March 1792. JAMES ANDERSON.

TO WILLIAM PETRIE ESQUIRE, President and Members of the Board of Revenue.

Gentlemen,

IN CONSEQUENCE of a Letter from Government of the 7th of May last, you will please to acquaint Mr. Erskine that his Assistant Mr. Crawfurd, has my approbation of taking charge of the Mulberry Plantation at Ongole, in the room of Mr. Phippard.

I am, &c.

Fort St. George, 30th March 1792. JAMES ANDERSON. TO

TO DOCTOR ANDERSON, PHYSICIAN GENERAL.

Dear Sir,

HAVING for some days past been absent from Tritchnopoly must plead in excuse for my not earlyer having acknowleged the receipt of your Letter with the enclosures of twisted Silk, which according to your desire shall be knit into purses and one presented to Hussien Ul Mulk Behader in your name.

I am happy to find your application to Capt. Dighton has been attended with success, I shall doubtless write to him requsting some of the seed of the Bread Fruit tree when it is fit to gather.

The people whom you expect round from Bengal with Mr. Corbet, will be a great acquisition, and as they will be stationed with you, I should think, it might be proper, with your premission, for those Gentleman under whose care at different places the worms have been established, to send down one or two of their people to acquire that knowlege in the different branches of the Silk manufacture which the Bengalies possess, and in which ours of the Coast are at present very defective.

I enclose you a drawing of a species of Palm tree, which I lately saw when visiting the district of Lalgoody, its stem is equal to the circumference of the Coco Nut tree; but the outside of it (or Bark) is smooth, like the Areca or Beetle Nut Tree; a sweet Toddy is extracted from it, but I do not find that any use is made of the Fruit.

I have this day planted several of the young Trees in my garden, as they appear uncommon, and if agreeable will send you some of the seed when fit to gather from the old Trees.

This moment I have received a single seed of the Bread Fruit, which was gathered from a Tree in the Garden at Allitory yesterday, it goes enclosed to you.

I Remain &c.

Tritchnopoly March 29th 1792. R. ANDREWS.

TO ROBERT ANDREWS ESQUIRE.

Dear Sir,

THE drawing you send is of the Caryota urens of Linnœus, a beautiful Tree, as indeed most of the palms are and worthy of a place in any Garden, by Doctor Roxburghs accounts I understand that the pith of this Tree is used in diet by the Hill people at the back of our Circars, in the same degree as sago is eaten by the Mallays, enclosed I send you a leaf from a young Tree in my Garden. The most obvious character is, *foliolis Cuneiformibus oblique premorsis.*

The quantity of Cacoons from which the Butterflies have been suffered to escape for the sake of procuring Eggs for the different stations is so great, as to become an object of consideration for House room, I have therefore directed the Silk weaver to work it up like cotton for being spun into thread and he has begun by cutting off a segment so large, as to admit the point of the Scissars to pick out the husk or skin of the grub.

The inside of the Cacoon is of a beautiful polish and lustre, what a field for the Ladies to make artificial Flowers?

The Children at my Bungalo are improving daily in the filature, and expedition excepted, I believe are already little inferior to those in Bengal; but when Mr. Corbett arrives, if I have influence enough they shall receive Lessons from his man, and the first of them that distinguishes himself by superior expertness shall be sent to you.

I am &c.

Fort St. George April 2d 1792. J. ANDERSON.

TO

TO DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON, Physician General.

Dear Sir,

I sent a fine young Bread Fruit Tree for you which I got from Hussein Ul Mulk Behader, this I directed Mr. Mitchell to forward you, he in answer promised to do so, and informs me there are a great many young Trees in a Garden belonging to a Dutchman at Negapatam that have been propagated from the seed, and as these found by Mr. Andrews at Allitory were doubtless propagated in the same manner, there will be no difficulty in raising abundance of them from the Fruit which is now ripening on the Trees at Allitory, Mr. Macleod informs me he has found the Bread Fruit Tree in a Garden at Madura.

I received your last publication a few days ago for which I am much obliged. The Silk worms are thriving well under the care of Mr. Andrews, and my Daughter in Law Miss Boyd has undertaken to knit a purse of the Silk you returned to him, as a Present (as you desire) to the Nabob Hussein Ul Mulk Behader.

Tritchinopoly, 29th March 1792 I am, &c.

NICOLL MEIN.

TO DOCTOR ANDERSON Physician General.

Dear Sir,

I LAST night returned from an excurtion I made towards the Sea, for the benefit of my health, and on my arrival found my Family of worms wonderfully metamorphozed, I think I have nearly Twenty Thousand Cacoons, and about the 15th Instant, will send you their produce which I think will be considerable.

I must alter enlarge &c. &c. the buildings I have them in, as without disasters, my next stock of worms will be extremely numerous.

This I may now venture on, as government have been pleased to resolve to defray my expences hitherto. I am &c.

Arnee April 1st 1792. ROBT. MACKAY.

TO CAPTAIN ROBERT MACKAY Commanding Arnee.

Dear Sir,

I AM favored with your Letter of the 1st instant, and glad to be informed that Government have at last attended to your expences, as with encouragement from them, there can no longer exist a doubt of the progress of the Silk Manufacture in this favorable climate.

It will be Superfluous to send me any more Silk, because I have long ago established the Manufacture at my own Garden, to as great an extent as I wish to carry my researches on the subject.

I am happy that returning health has spared you the expence and trouble of a Journey to the Sea Coast.

I am &c.

Fort St. George, 3d April 1792, JAMES ANDERSON.

TO

TO DOCTOR ANDERSON Phyſician General.

DEAR SIR,

I AM this moment favored with your Letter of the 17th Inſtant, you may reſt aſſured, I will do every thing in my power to aſſiſt your exertions in multiplying the Bread Fruit Tree: I ſhall ſend you by the very firſt opportunity half a Dozen Boxes full of its Roots, by every account I can collect it produces neither ſeed nor Kernal.

I thank you for the Nopal leaves, I have planted all of them, and they are thriving aſtoniſhingly, they ſprout out in three or four days, I firſt put them in Boxes and when they have taken good Root, I ſhall tranſplant them and attend to your inſtructions with reſpect to the diſtances; you may depend upon all the different plants by the firſt Snip that ſails from hence.

Cochin March 26th 1792. I am &c.

GEORGE POWNEY.

To JAMES ANDERSON Phyſician General.

Dear Sir,

SINCE I had the pleaſure of writing you laſt I have received from Mr. Ramſay 18 Nopal plants, eleven of which I have planted in my own and other Gardens near Amboor, the other ſeven I have ſent to Sautgurr, they are all doing well.

Two hundred Silk worms have now formed their Cacoons, and I have upwards of a hundred more ready to ſpin, but as I have no Reel it will be impoſſible for me to wind off the Silk, and if I allow the worms to eſcape from the Cacoons, they will lay more Eggs, and a greater number of worms will be produced, than my ſlender emoluments will allow ſervants to take care of. I ſhall therefore be much obliged to you to inform me what I am to do.

The Mulberry Plantation looks exceedingly well, and in a ſhort time the different Garriſons in the fertile Countries of the Barra Maul may be ſupplied with Cuttings from Amboor. I ſhould feel myſelf happy to have it in my power to forward thoſe laudable purſuits, which you have ſo diſintereſtedly begun, and zealouſly carried on.

Amboor April 2d 1792. I am, &c.

PAT. NICOLL.

To Mr. P. Nicoll Aſſiſtant Surgeon.

Dear Sir,

I AM favored with your Letter of the ſecond Inſtant, and can only referr you to the directions contained in my letter to Mr. Betty of the 4th of March, with this aſſurance that I ſhall always conſider myſelf obliged to you for doing ſo much, and when the buſineſs is farther extended, your diſtinguiſhed exertion and Zeal muſt be entitled to due attention.

Fort St. George April 5th 1792. I am &c.

J. ANDERSON.

TO DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON,

My Dear Sir,

IN the courſe of laſt Month I was honored with your ſeveral favors accompanying ſome Cooly loads of Nopals, very few of which have failed,

failed, and I have now a very beautiful Nopal Field. According to your Directions I forwarded some to Mr. Nicolt at Amboor.

Having received no answer to my application to Government, I still draw for the Gardiners as before, but have allotted a certain number for the purpose of attending to the worms. It is now the hotest season here, notwithstanding which, the worms thrive very well, and in a few days I hope to have the pleasure of sending you a Skain of Silk from my new Reel. I find I can effectually preserve the Eggs from drying up, by putting them immediately they are laid in a Cudgeree Pot made for the purpose, and placed in water, which absorbing into the body of the Pot, keeps a cool artificial Atmosphere within.

Vellore, 3d April 1792. I have the honor to be, &c.

JAMES RAMSAY.

TO DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON.

Sir,

MR. R. S. Corbett, having submitted to the Governor in Council his opinion, that it will not be necessary to erect Buildings of the description pointed out in your Letter of the 6th of December last, I am directed to transmitt to you a Copy of his communication for your information.

Fort St. George, March 31st 1792. I am &c.

Examined Henry Brown, ROBT. CLERK.

Dep. Sec.

TO C. N. WHITE ESQ. SECRETARY FORT. ST. GEORGE.

Sir,

IN consequence of your Letter to me saying it was not the intention of the Hon. the Governor in Council not to subject the Company to any farther expence than what might be necessary for carying on the cultivation of the Mulberry Plantations already established on the Coast, until the sentiments of the Hon. Court of Directors were received on the subject, I did not suppose any expence would be thought of till I saw it in Doctor Andersons Correspondence.

As I am of opinion buildings of that description and indeed almost of any kind are unnecessary in the present state of the cultivation of the Mulberry Plant, I think it my Duty to request of you to mention this to the Hon. Governor in Council, and as I expect to be soon at Madras, when I shall have the honor of Submitting proposals to government which I trust will be approved of, I could wish till then every thing that concerns it to remain as it now is.

I wrote to Doctor Anderson the 5th Instant in which I went at large into the mode practised in the Filatures, and in the breeding the Silk worms; Cultivation of the Plants, and the extent and nature of the Buildings together with such observations as I thought worth communicating, which he will shew to Government if they have a desire to peruse it.

Calcutta March 12th 1792. I am &c.

Compared Henry Brown Examiner. R. S. CORBETT.

TO

TO THE HONORABLE SIR CHARLES OAKELEY BART. ACTING GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL.

Honorable Sirs,

I AM favored with your Letter of the 31st Ultimo, with its enclosure from Mr. Corbett to Mr. Secretary White, and with regard to the buildings in Bengal, they are adverted to, in my Letter of the 5th of May last.

As you are now possessed of every information in my power to communicate for carrying on a business of such importance as the culture of Silk; I hope it may not be considered an improper period, for closing a correspondence, that is already too Voluminous.

Fort St. George April 5th 1792. I am &c.

J. ANDERSON.

TO JAMES ANDERSON Esq. Physician General.

Dear Sir,

HEREWITH I enclose you a sample of the Silk which our worms here have produced. The Eggs which were sent us by your desire from Bengal having contrary to my expectation hatched after all, besides a considerable quantity of new Eggs, from this you will perceive that all we want is the Reel, to wind off the Silk, which I request you will furnish us with as soon as possible.

I have received a good many of the Nopal leaves and planted them in a situation where they are well sheltered from the Sun.

Munsoorcottah 24th March 1792. I am &c.

NATHANIEL WEBB.

TO DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Governor in Council to transmit you the enclosed Copy of a Report made by order of the supreme Government on the Samples of Silk received from you and sent to Bengal in January last.

Fort St. George 4th April 1792. I am Sir &c.

Examined H. BROWN, R. CLERK Dept. Sec.

EXPORT WAREHOUSE 24th Feb. 1792.

PRESENT.

C. R. Crommilin S. E. W. H. K.
Thomas Abraham.
Charles Law.
Thomas Thornhill.
} J. Frushard Supt. Silk Invest.

Examination of Samples of Silk made in the Carnatic agreeably to the Orders of the Board of Trade of 21st February 1792.

THE White No. 1 is very excellent Silk No. 2 is not so good, but by no means bad, till the hands are more experienced, it might be advisable

viſeable to adopt a coarſer ſize——Suppoſing this intended for A. & B. they are both conſiderably finer than the Companys regulating Muſter.

The Yellow is thrown Silk and cannot be received in England, it is thrown after the manner of the ſewing Silk.

(Signed) J. FRUSHARD. S. R. S. L.

A true Copy Signed C. R. CROMMILIN S. E. W. K.

True Copy Signed J. H. EDMONSTONE Sec. to the Board of Trade.

A true Copy Signed J. L. CHAUVET Sub. Sec.

A true Copy ROBT. CLERK Dept. Sec.

Compared Henry Brown Examiner.

Dear Sir, To Mr. GEORGE ANDERSON Tiagar.

I HAVE the pleaſure to encloſe the Copy of a Letter from Government, with the Bengal report of the Silk you ſent to Mr Depy. Sec. Clerk on the 25th of December laſt, which you will do me the favor to deliver to Capt. Flint I am &c.

Fort St. George April 7th 1792. JAMES ANDERSON.

Extract of a Letter from Doctor Roxburgh dated Samulcotta, 8th April 1792.

" THE Opuntias I have diſtributed in the beſt manner I could think of to anſwer your humane intention; I had at various times for the laſt twelve months, given joints of thoſe reared from the few you ſent me about two years ago, to ſuch of the Natives as I thought moſt likely to take care of them, but I could not prevail on any of them to venture to eat them, although I ſet them the example myſelf, and told them that one of our greateſt Philoſophers, had pronounced them to be good—Linnæus you know I mean, he places them at the head of his natural order Succulentæ, and ſays they are Aſtringent, refreſhing, and very nouriſhing; time may probably induce the Natives to eat them, although Famine will not; there are great numbers of indiginous Plants every where, which help to ſupply them with a miſerable ſubſiſtance, theſe they know and prefer, although not near ſo nouriſhing and leſs palatable."

" You will be pleaſed to know that by the care of Mrs. Roxburgh, we have a very great abundance of ſilk worms in every ſtage; ſhould any of your correſpondents in the Circars wiſh to have Eggs I will with pleaſure ſupply them. We have four ſorts (viz) a white ſort ſent by you, the common yellow Bengal kind, and the Yellow and white China kinds, thoſe laſt I got direct from Mr. Pope at Coſſimbuzar."

TO DOCTOR WILLIAM ROXBURGH.

Dear Sir,

AS the religion in which the Natives have been educated, regards food as well as faith, ſuch articles of Diet as are not mentioned in the Shaſters, muſt be with difficulty adopted by them; but when I tell you that the tender leaves of the Kew and Manilla Opuntias, have lately been added to the Curries diſtributed to the Native poor here, which ſeveral hundreds of them have eaten with ſo much ſatisfaction as to require daily a farther ſupply, you need not deſpair of ſucceſs.

I am much gratified by the attention of Mrs. Roxburgh to preſerve the Silk worms and will be ſtill more pleaſed to hear that the Famine has ſpared hands enough to carry on the management of them farther; as it appears to me the moſt probable means, of reſtoring the Country to its former population and Value. I am &c.

Fort St. George April 17th 1792. J. ANDERSON. Extracts

Extracts regarding the Nopal being used in Diet.

SIR HANS SLOANE's HISTORY OF JAMAICA Vol. 2d. Page 152.

"ALVARO Nunez. ap. Ramnus page 319 ap. Purchas P. 1511, "tells us that the Indians feed on them three months in the year "and nothing else; that they go thirty Leagues to find them in the proper "time of the year P. 1513. Ramnus P. 320 wring open, dry them, and "hang them on Garlands to eat them by the way home, they powder their "Rinds also, dance and are without care at this time, ib. and talk of it "beforehand, comforting themselves. In four days famine they eat the "leaves likewise, P. 1518. ap. Ramnus, P. 322,———after they were "baked in an Oven, He tells us they are eat by the Indians themselves, ib.

"Jo. de Laet, lib. 5 cap. 25, tells us that woods of them are near St. "Philip in Mechoacan, into which Cattle for their Food get in dry times, and "come not out till wet weather, which makes that Country proper for herds "of Cattle."

Mons. Thiery de Menonville voyage a Guaxaca Vol. 1st Page 95.

"IN all the Country of Guaxaca the Indian lives on the Fruit of the "Nopal, even the young branches that have not as yet acquired more than "half a foot in length and whose thorns are soft, they boil—they make "Ragouts of the Buds and of the Flowers before they expand—the Seeds "that are black and hard, they dry, preserve, and bruise them when they "wish to make Bread. I have seen sold at Guaxaca, leaves of a sort of "Nopal long and straight, sliced and boiled in Water to be eat as asparagus, "with a sauce of Butter, Oil, or Hog's Lard."

Vol. 2d, P. 280.

You may see all the French Colonists of St. Domingo. white, black or Mulatto, Surgeon, Doctor, or old wife, use indifferently all the kinds of opuntia which they roast over the fire or boil in Water, as Poultices, Washes, Syrups, and various other ways—the use of these plants appear to me to be universal.

The fruit is eat in the greatest part of Mexico and Campeche.

The Mexican eats not only the fruit of all the Nopals, but he puts the Buds, the flowers, and the branches when they are an inch or two high into his seething Pot.

The young Branches of Opuntia, six or eight inches long, and two or three broad, boiled in Water, are sold all the way to Guaxaca; which they eat in the manner of Asparagus with a white sauce, with Vinegar and oil, or with sauces made of Pimento and Tomaties, or Love apples.

FINIS.

ERRATUM.

In the impression of Mr. Eilbracht's Letter of the 10th of March the words, "which is really yellow" are inserted by mistake—see the Continuation p. 38.